



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Mississippi State Department of Health
Advisory Council in Occupational Therapy
Minutes
January 22, 2016**

Members

Melanie Johnston, Secretary
Dr. Rebecca Barry
Robin Parish, Chair
Megan P. Ladner
Tina Melton (via telephone)

MSDH

F. Simkins
Y. Morrow
M. Armstrong
E. O'Neal

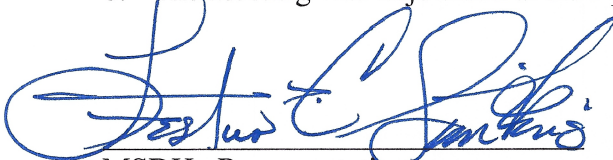
1. Mr. Simkins called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.
2. By unanimous consent, the January 23, 2015 and March 20, 2015, minutes were approved by the Council.
3. The following officers were elected by acclamation:
 Chair-elect: Ms. Megan Ladner
 Secretary-elect: Ms. Tina Melton
4. New Business
 - A. Mr. Simkins presented the new Advisory Council in Occupational Therapy bylaws for review and possible adoption by the Council. A motion was made by Ms. Parish and seconded by Ms. Ladner to adopt the bylaws. The motion carried.
 - B. Ms. Morrow stated that the Council membership terms of Robin Parish, OT and Melanie Johnston, COTA expire at the end of this year and nomination are needed for their replacement. Mr. Simkins informed the Council that the nomination should be in before July in order to be placed on the Mississippi State Board of Health's October agenda.
 - C. Ms. Morrow informed the Council that Dr. Barry's Council membership term also expires at the end of this year and that she is eligible for reappointment. Dr. Barry stated that she is willing to serve another term. Request for letter of support will be sent to MSOTA.
 - D. Ms. Morrow informed the Council that this was a renewal year for the profession of occupational therapy. She stated that postcards would be mailed to current licensees on

March 1, 2016. She requested that MSOTA place an announcement on their website reminding their members.

- E. Ms. Parish stated that other entities have expressed interest in receiving email addresses of all licensed occupation therapists and occupational therapy assistants in the State of Mississippi and that she understood that the current Professional Licensure database is unable to capture email addresses. She inquired if and when the Department expected to purchase a system with such capability. Mr. Simkins stated that the Department is currently in the process of trying to obtain a system with this capability. The approximate timeframe is two years.
- F. Ms. Parish presented concerns regarding the number of COTAs that an OT should be allowed to supervise. Ms. Hux, MSOTA President, presented a survey concerning increasing the number of occupational therapy assistants that an occupational therapist can supervise. As part of this discussion, the Council sought input from the COTA member of the Council and attending guests. Each felt that increasing the number would have a negative impact on patient care. Ms. Melton introduced another supervision issue which concerned the requirement that the supervising OT make a supervisory visit every 7th visit, is it based on the COTA's visits? The general consensus of the Council was that it is based on the 7th visit to the patient. The Council discussed clarifying the supervision section of the regulations. Ms. O'Neal stated that she would assist with drafting the language. The members discussed tabling the issues until further research could be conducted. A motioned was made by Ms. Parish and seconded by Ms. Ladner to table the discussion and to have Ms. O'Neal draft revisions. The motion carried.

5. The next Council meeting was scheduled for January 25, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.


MSDH Representative


Council Secretary

DATE: 12 Oct 16